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NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON EXTENDS KISSELL'S CONTRACT FOR FIVE YEARS, AD STARTS NINTH YEAR AT HELM

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton has extended the contract of Ted Kissell, vice president and director of athletics, for another five years, Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president, announced today.

"Ted has provided strong leadership for the integrity and excellence of our athletics program and the academic achievement of our students," he said.

Michael Ervin, chair of the athletics committee of UD's board of trustees, echoed Fitz's sentiments: "I've been very impressed with Ted's leadership skills as well as his integrity. He sets a great example for others to follow. We're very pleased not only with the success of the highly visible men's basketball program, but also with how he has raised the overall excellence of all of our athletics programs."

Kissell, only the sixth athletics director in UD history, has served since 1992. Under his leadership, UD has made significant strides in building its athletics program to unprecedented levels. As on the playing field, the numbers tell the story:

- UD consistently graduates athletes and places a focus on academics. In 1999-2000, UD's graduation rate of scholarship athletes topped the nation. Men's cross country was named the third-best academic team in the nation with a 1999 grade-point average of 3.49. Last fall, 63 percent of all student-athletes had a grade-point average of 3.0 or better.
- UD is fielding winning teams. Last year the men's basketball team returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1990 and finished the season as the Atlantic 10 West champions. The women's basketball team also returned to post-season play for the first time in 16 years, playing in the WNIT. In 1999, the football team won the Pioneer Football League title — its fifth — and the women's soccer team advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

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This was the first time any UD team aside from men's basketball made it to a Division I NCAA tournament. UD finished fifth in the 1999-00 Atlantic 10 Commissioner's Cup standings, the best-ever performance in the conference's all-sports award.

- Gender equity remains a strong focus. UD received an A- rating in gender equity in a study by the Women's Sports Foundation in 1997. Dayton was one of only 15 schools among the 307 NCAA Division I institutions to receive an A- or higher. UD added women's rowing last season, after introducing women's indoor and outdoor track and field during Kissell's tenure.
- The athletics division has improved its financial footing by raising more than \$8 million in private gifts in the past three years and increasing annual operating revenues by more than \$3 million, primarily through increased ticket sales and corporate sponsorships and the introduction of a premium seating plan in the UD Arena. The men's basketball team drew an average 12,644 per game last season, 24th best in the country and the highest since the 1970-71 season.
- To maintain national athletic competitiveness, UD has invested in new facilities, such as the 1998 state-of-the-art Donohoe Basketball Center addition to the UD Arena, entirely funded by private contributions. Under a \$1.7 million renovation plan, Baujan Field is currently being transformed into a European-style soccer stadium for the men's and women's teams.

Kissell's management style has received national attention. He's featured in a chapter in a new management book, *Stop Whining — and Start Winning*, by Frank Pacetta. The section describes how Kissell aggressively recruits coaches and staff and how Flyer basketball coach Oliver Purnell signs prized players. Pacetta holds up their tenacity and passion for finding and attracting talent as a lesson for businesses, most of which he says do a ho-hum job of recruiting.

"We're encouraged by our achievements over the last five years, but frankly our energy and focus are always forward," Kissell said. "I appreciate the confidence in my leadership expressed by Brother Ray and the board of trustees."

As Kissell starts his ninth year at the helm of UD's athletics division, he points to the 28-year tenure of Tom Frericks and the 42-year record of Harry Baujan. Kissell is now the third-longest standing AD in UD history.

"I still feel like a rookie," he said. "Continuity is a strong value at the University of Dayton."